













SHEWAN TOMES & CO.,  
LONDON, 4, B. C. CODE, 4TH EDITION.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

ACHEE &amp; CO

利廣

No. 17,  
QUEEN'S ROAD,  
HONGKONG.Furniture  
Dealers.DRAWING ROOM,  
DINING ROOM,  
BED ROOM  
FURNITUREELECTRO PLATED  
GLASS AND  
CHINA WAREFASTER'S MICROBE  
PROOF FILTERS.  
ROCHESTER LAMPS.  
WHITE TURKISH  
TOWELS AND  
COUNTERPANESCOOKING RANGES,  
KITCHEN UTENSILS,  
and HOUSEHOLD  
REQUISITES.

WM. POWELL,

LIMITED.

Arrival of  
NEW FRENCH  
MILLINERY.Arrival of  
RAINCOATS.Arrival of  
DAINTY  
SUNSHADES.Arrival of  
UMBRELLAS.Purchase now  
for

Race Week

at

Wm. Powell, Ltd.,  
84, Queen's Road.AYAL & CO'S  
Extra Quality,  
Extra Dry,  
CHAMPAGNE\$54.00 per Case Bottles.  
\$57.00 per Case Bottles.

SOLE AGENTS

HONGKONG and the Philippines.  
H. PRICE & CO.,  
WINE MERCHANTS,  
12, Queen's Road Central.

MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Meetings.

11.30 a.m. Meeting of Shareholders of  
The West Point Building Co., Ltd., at  
the Company's Office.  
Noon Meeting of Shareholders of The  
Hongkong Land Investment & Agency  
Co., Ltd., at the Company's Office.  
11.30 a.m. Meeting of Shareholders of  
The Hongkong Land Reclamation Co.,  
Ltd., at the Company's Office.  
2 p.m. Meeting of Kowloon Market  
Lodge.

General Memoranda

TUESDAY, January 28.—  
3.30 p.m. Auction of a Quantity of Val-  
uable Household Furniture, at No. 14,  
Queen's Road Central.  
Goods per *Savona* undelivered after this  
date subject to rent.WEDNESDAY, January 29.—  
Noon Meeting of The National Bank of  
China Ltd., at the Bank.  
Goods per *C. Ford* undelivered after  
this date subject to rent.MONDAY, February 1.—  
Goods per *Gera* undelivered after this  
date subject to rent.WEDNESDAY, February 3.—  
Transfer Books of The Hongkong Hope  
Manufacturing Co., Ltd., closed from  
this date to the 6th February inclusive.

Established A.D. 1841.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

PORT

B. OLD VINTAGE,  
SUPERIOR QUALITY, RED CAP-  
SULE.....\$16.00 \$14.00C. FINE OLD VIN-  
TAGE, SUPERIOR QUALITY, BLACK  
SEAL CAPSULE... 20.00 1.70D. VERY FINE  
OLD VINTAGE,  
EXTRA SUPERIOR  
(OLD BOTTLED),  
VIOLET CAPSULE 27.00 2.25NOTE.—Port, after removal,  
should be rested for a month  
before use.Wine required for IMMEDI-  
ATE use should be ordered to  
be decanted before being sent  
out.These Wines are specially  
suited for Invalids and general  
use, and are too well known to  
need further comment.

A. S. WATSON &amp; Co., Limited,

WINE &amp; SPIRIT MERCHANTS

January 28, 1904.

## BIRTHS.

On January 24, at the Government Civil  
Hospital, Hongkong, the wife of Mr C. A.  
McDonough, of a Daughter.  
On the 22nd January, at 6, East  
Avenue, Kowloon, the wife of Capt. M.  
Courtney, of a Daughter.The publication of this issue commenced  
at 5.45 p.m.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 1904.

Few questions have been more proli-  
fic of annoyance and trouble to foreign  
merchants in China than the vexatious  
restrictions placed by the Chinese  
Government in days gone by upon the  
transit of goods into the interior. All  
kinds of difficulties have been put in  
the way by the Customs authorities,  
until many merchants have given up  
troubling about the sending of goods  
inland. It was therefore with much  
relief and pleasure that the new Treaty  
between Britain and China was welcom-  
ed, in which most of these restrictions  
were removed, and it was hoped that  
ere long business would profit by the  
change. When, however, attempts were  
made to despatch goods by the Steam  
Launches to inland ports, excuses were  
made at first by the Customs that they  
had not opened any Custom House  
inland, and that there was no officer  
appointed for the purpose of looking  
after that branch of the work. In  
Amoy, for instance, it was found  
impossible to send any goods into the  
interior by Steam Launch, and for a  
long time no one cared to stir in the  
matter, probably remembering the  
worries of the past. There are a great  
many launches plying round Amoy,  
and it seemed a pity that they should  
only carry passengers when the New  
Treaty had opened the way for goods  
to be sent as well. Amoy merchants  
are much indebted to Mr P. M. Sanger,  
of Messrs Hauser and Co., on his return  
to Amoy from a visit to his native  
country in May, 1903, and who is very  
much interested in the launch traffic,  
for taking up the matter with his usual  
earnestness. He consulted with the  
present urban Commissioner of Cus-  
toms in Amoy, Mr Van Aalst, who,  
after careful deliberation upon the mat-  
ter, willingly gave his consent to allow  
goods to be sent into the country per  
steam launches. The British Consul,  
Mr P. F. Hauser, was also approach-  
ed upon the matter, and he fully sup-  
ported the movement, and was ever  
ready to give every assistance in his  
power, in order to help British mer-  
chants. There can be no doubt there-  
fore that all those interested in push-  
ing foreign trade will derive much  
benefit from the concession, whether it  
be the shippers and owners of the launch-  
es, or the merchants, or indeed, for  
the matter of that, those Chinese who  
live inland and who wish to get goods  
in a safe and speedy manner. Great  
credit is therefore due to the gentlemen  
above mentioned who pushed this mat-  
ter forward to so successful an issue.  
After so many years of trouble and vexa-  
tions delays, due to the many hind-  
rances put in the way of lawful trade,  
all honour should be afforded to those  
who, by persistent effort, have been the  
means of removing such obstacles from  
the path of legitimate business.

## CANTON LEPEL'S FUND.

'China Mail's' Subscription List.  
This list will be kept open until Satur-  
day next. We trust that readers who have  
not yet contributed will send along a dona-  
tion. Whilst they are living in comparative  
luxury there are poor human creatures at  
Canton perishing for want of assistance.  
Even a 10-cent piece will purchase some  
comfort.

Amount already acknowledged \$319.10

Address to Sir H. A. Blake.

Mr E. A. Howett informs us that the  
address from the Hongkong Community  
to Sir Henry Blake has now been bound,  
and will be forwarded to Ceylon by next  
English Mail. Anyone wishing to see the  
address can do so on application at Mr  
Hewett's office (P. and O. Company).

## A Strong Statement

CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC AND  
DIARRHOEA REMEDY has been  
the means of saving more human lives and  
relieving more pain and suffering than any  
other medicine in the world. There are  
thousands of homes that always keep a  
bottle of this medicine handy; for there  
is no telling when such a medicine is want-  
ed. Get a bottle to day; it may save  
a life.We wish travellers would realise the  
importance of having with them a bottle of  
Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diar-  
rhoea Remedy. Change of water and diet frequently  
produce diarrhoea, which can be quickly  
cured with this remedy. For sale by all  
chemists and medicine vendors; WATKINS  
Limited, General Agents.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

## Masonic.

At the Freemason's Hall last night a  
meeting of the United Mark Lodge was  
held, at which Bro. W. H. Woolley was  
elected Wor. Master, Bro. J. Presley,  
Treasurer, and Bro. J. Vanstone Tyler for  
the present year.

## Shanghai Municipal Elections.

The election of members for the  
Shanghai Municipal Council took place on  
Jan. 21, resulting in the following being  
elected.—Messrs A. M. Marshall, 409; J.  
Prentice, 349; D. Landis, 343; O.  
Meuser, 343; F. Anderson, 330; H. De  
Gray, 329; C. W. Wright, 324; A. W.  
Burkill, 307; E. S. Little, 286. Messrs  
S. A. Harcourt and W. A. C. Platt scored  
261 and 241 respectively.

## Arrival of Dr Anderson.

Dr H. Anderson, Inspector-General  
of Siam Government Hospitals, accom-  
panied by Dr Luang Yikhan, In-  
spector of Government Hospitals, is at  
present in the colony, having arrived  
yesterday from Bangkok. Dr Anderson is  
on his way to Manila to study the Mani-  
la treatment of 'rinderpest'. The Siam  
Government, owing to the prevalence of  
the disease in Siam, are very desirous of  
obtaining a cure, or at least a treatment for  
its alleviation.

## A 'Times' War Correspondent.

By Australian steamers several war  
correspondents have arrived in Hongkong  
of late, the most recent being Commander  
W. J. Colquhoun, D.S.O., of the Victorian  
Naval Force, who reached the Colony yes-  
terday by the N.Y.K. steamer *Kanaga*  
*Maru*. Commander Colquhoun, who will  
be one of the correspondents on *The Times*  
staff, has seen active service in South  
Africa. He was twice mentioned in  
despatches for his services. In South  
Africa he assisted the Naval Brigade greatly  
in devising means of getting their 'cow  
guns' overboard places. He was present  
at Paardeburg, and has five clasps to his  
African medal.

## The Leaky 'Erie J. Ray'.

The American barque *Erie J. Ray*, 910  
tons, from Rajong, Sarawak, with timber  
for Hongkong, has put into Manila in a  
very leaky condition, and will probably  
have to discharge her cargo. Manila  
advises state that repairs will cost more  
than the ship is worth and it is probable  
she will be condemned. Early this month  
the *Erie J. Ray* was spoken by the *Dir*  
*Arthur Barly* off the west coast of Luzon.  
She then signalled that she was short of  
provisions. The sea was rough and only a  
cask of beef could be got off board. The  
*Erie J. Ray* is an American built barque  
and was constructed in 1879. She is 161  
feet 2 inches in length, 35 feet 1 inch in  
breadth, and 21 feet 7 inches in depth.  
Her owner is Mrs Pauline Kaster.

## The Piratical Hermann.

A telegram from Cagayan de Misamis  
dated Jan. 22, to the Manila *Cablenews*,  
says that the demurrer in ex-lieutenant  
Hermann's case has been overruled and  
a new complaint filed embracing the charge  
of piracy. To this new court the defend-  
ant immediately demurred. The com-  
plaint is said to be very badly drawn, and  
Hermann's behavior and attitude is full  
of badgering. He regards himself as a  
hero, and is proud of his long list of  
crimes. He has announced the belief that  
he will be acquitted, as the evidence is not  
strong enough for any court to convict him,  
he says. Hermann has pleaded guilty to  
the charge of desertion, and as a result of  
the first trial, Lieutenant Forcible, of the  
constabulary, has been charged with per-  
jury and is to be arrested to-morrow.

## The Kwangsi Rebellion.

A Canton dispatch reports a general  
recrudescence of restlessness amongst mal-  
contents in both Kwangtung and Kwangsi  
provinces due to the arrival lately of con-  
siderable quantities of arms and ammuni-  
tion as well as money contributed by Chi-  
nese abroad. Several new leaders are also  
reported to have joined the rebel bands and  
infused new life into the rebellion. Vice-  
roy Tien Chin hsien, who is at present still  
in Canton, is expected to soon leave for  
Kwangsi to crush the rebellion, and a force  
of 15,000 well-armed troops will accompany  
him. Further dispatches report the  
presence of considerable bodies of rebels  
in the region bordering the Hunan  
frontiers in consequence of which the  
officials of that province are greatly  
alarmed and are hastily raising  
new levies to prevent the Kwangsi  
rebels from entering Hunan territory. Two  
women chiefs, said to be wives of rebel  
leaders killed by Government troops, have  
recently also raised the flag of rebellion against  
the detested Tartar rule, with the avowed  
object of obtaining revenge for the death of  
their husbands. Each woman leads some  
400 to 500 men, one calling herself Queen  
Wu—Wu being her family surname—being  
also assisted by two daughters, the elder be-  
ing twenty-two years old and the younger  
eighteen. They are both dressed in male  
attire and ride their horses also like men;  
astride. The mother, or Queen Wu is said  
to be not at all the bloodthirsty virago rum-  
oured credits her, but is, instead, a quiet lady,  
like woman and always ready to extend  
mercy where her daughters and followers  
decline to give it. The daughters are, how-  
ever said to be very unscrupulous in their  
ways and exceedingly ruthless though brave to a  
degree. The people of the region travelled by  
these viragos are panic stricken and  
fleeing to places of safety.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

## Notes by the Way.

The China and Japan Telephone and  
Electric Company, Limited, and Messrs  
Deacon, Looker, and Deacon have been  
elected to membership of the Chamber of  
Commerce. Messrs Deacon and Hastings  
have resigned.Owing to an interruption of one of the  
cables between Penang and Madras, there  
is at present some delay on telegrams ex-  
changed with India and with Europe via  
Eastern. Restoration of normal communi-  
cation is looked for about Friday or Satur-  
day next.

## Address at the City Hall.

At St. Andrew's Hall last night Bishop  
Ridley delivered an address dealing with  
the progress of the gospel among the  
Indian tribes in Canada. The chair was  
filled by the Bishop of Victoria, and Mr  
Dyer Ball acted as interpreter, and trans-  
lated Bishop Ridley's address into Can-  
tonese for the benefit of the Chinese  
Christians, who were present in large  
numbers. Singing and prayers opened  
and closed the proceedings, which were  
marked by the rapt attention displayed by  
the Chinese.

## Fire in a Coal Matched.

Shortly before eleven this morning a  
fire broke out in a matched in West Point,  
in which coal was stacked. The brigade  
answered the call at once, but on their  
arrival the matched was almost consumed.  
The coal too, was commencing to catch  
alight, and a big blaze seemed probable.  
With the arrival of the fire float, however,  
plenty of sea water was available, and soon  
six or seven lines of hose were directed  
towards the burning matched. The matched  
was soon destroyed, and the volumes of  
smoke that slowly rolled upwards towards  
the sky denoted that the coal had caught  
alight. The matched was situated in the  
centre of a yard in Queen's Road West,  
and fortunately was open to attack on all  
sides by the firemen. From the front,  
rear, and both sides the water was poured  
on, and some of the more intrepid firemen  
directed the efforts of the coal stack, so as to  
meet their efforts directly on the burning  
spots. All round the stack the coal was a-  
light, and the water for a time seemed to have  
no effect. As it soaked its way through,  
however, the smoke grew gradually less  
and less. After a long spell the fire was  
extinguished. The fire is supposed to have  
been caused by sparks from a neighbour-  
ing chimney, which settled on the mat-  
ched. The brigade was under the control  
of Chief-Inspector Baker and Inspector  
Macdonald, while Capt. F. W. Lyons also  
was in attendance. The damage is so far  
unknown. The coal and matched are the  
property of the Gas Company.

## AMOY NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Amoy 19.

## KULANOSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The date is now fixed for the forthcom-  
ing Election, viz. Friday, the 29th Janu-  
ary, on which day the Annual General  
Meeting of Ratepayers will be held at 5  
p.m., in the Amoy Club Theatre, when  
not only will the Councilors for the ensu-  
ing year be elected, but provision will be  
made for the payment of Municipal Ex-  
penses, and any other necessary business  
transacted. To aid in the despatch of  
business, it is, however, enacted that any  
Ratepayer wishing to bring a Resolution  
before this Annual Meeting must give no-  
tice of it in writing to the Secretary of the  
Council on or before January 22nd,  
otherwise no Resolution will be in order.

## HYDROPHOBIA AND CREMATION.

In consequence of a case of hydrophobia  
having occurred recently on the island, the  
Secretary of the Municipal Council, Colonel  
Donald Mackenzie, has very wisely issued a  
notice warning all owners of dogs to keep  
their dogs confined to their premises until  
further notice, since all ownerless dogs will  
be promptly destroyed. There can be no  
doubt that this is a step in the right direc-  
tion as this terrible disease might easily  
spread if due precautions were not taken.  
At the same time, while it is comparatively  
easy to get foreigners to comply with such  
rules, it is difficult to see how the Chinese will  
manage to obey, as their dogs are seldom  
confined to their houses or premises, or tied  
up. If, however, such restrictions lead to a  
considerable reduction in the number of  
stray dogs and 'wanks,' so much the better!  
The man who died from hydrophobia,  
unfortunately, was one of the Sikh police-  
men, No. 9, and he was cremated on Mon-  
day morning last, Jan. 18, on one of the  
beaches of the island, not far from the  
Commissioner's house. This is the first  
time, I believe, that a cremation has taken  
place on the island for a foreigner.

## ANOTHER FIRE IN AMOY.

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 19, a small fire  
broke out in the Amoy Custom House and  
several rooms were burnt; luckily the fire  
was extinguished very quickly before much  
damage was done. It is fortunate it oc-  
curred early in the evening and not during  
the night, as otherwise the whole Custom  
House might have been destroyed, and  
other adjacent houses as well. The cause  
of the outbreak does not seem to be known.Mama—Oh, you little Willie, your little  
brother can stand all alone. Aren't you glad?  
Willie (aged six)—Sure. Now I want  
him to hold an apple on his head while I  
shoot it off with my bow and arrow, can't  
I?

## TELEGRAMS.

[CHINA MAIL'S EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.]  
SUPPLIED BY REUTERS, LEO BODINAY.

## OUTRAGE IN EAST AFRICA.

A PROSPECTING PARTY  
ATTACKED.Several Whites Murdered.  
LONDON, January 26.A prospecting expedition, equipped  
and despatched under the auspices of  
the East African Syndicate, to test  
the gold-bearing country in the  
vicinity of Lake Rudolf, East Africa,  
has been overwhelmed by a hostile  
force of Turkanas.The expedition was camped in the  
vicinity of the Lake when the Tur-  
kanas attacked them. Several of  
the white members of the party were  
murdered.[Lake Rudolf is a rather extensive lake  
in British East Africa. It lies to the North  
East of Lake Victoria Nyanza, and is fed  
principally by rivers flowing south from the  
mountains in Abyssinia.—Ed., C.M.]DISASTROUS HURRICANE  
IN FIJI.VAST DAMAGE TO SHIPPING  
AND PROPERTY.

Many Lives Lost.

LONDON, January 25.

One of the hurricanes which  
periodically sweep over the South Seas  
doing enormous damage to property  
and shipping at the island, has spread  
disaster in Fiji, a group of islands in the  
South Pacific Ocean, about 1,100 miles  
North of New Zealand.The main strength of the hurricane  
was felt at Levuka, a seaport on the  
Island of Ovalau, where the houses  
were torn down and shipping either  
driven ashore or sunk at its moorings.Numbers of people were killed and  
drowned. The estimate of the loss  
in lives, shipping and property, is vast.Suva, on the south coast of the  
Island of Viti Levu, and the seat of  
Government, was also injured by the  
storm, but the damage was small  
compared with that wrought on the  
neighbouring island.A correct estimate of the amount of  
damage has not yet been made, but it  
will run into many thousands of  
pounds.[The Fiji Islands form about the most  
picturesque group of islands to be found in  
that region of tropical beauty, the South  
Pacific. Lying about 1900 miles from  
Sydney and 1200 miles from Auckland,  
New Zealand, the islands are easy of access  
and consequently form one of the greatest  
attractions for tourists. The more impor-  
tant islands of the group—which comprise  
in all from 200 to 250 or more hilly and  
mountainous, rising more or less abruptly  
from the shore to a height of about  
4000 or 4500 feet. The hills are of a  
grand and picturesque outline, and, being  
composed for the most part of old volcanic  
lavas, green tropical vegetation grows in  
profusion upon them. On the south-eastern  
or windward sides the islands are covered  
with dense forests, though the lower lands  
and more lightly timbered, and apparently  
have all been under cultivation at a not  
distant period when the native population  
was much larger. The northern and north-  
western, or leeward, sides of the islands  
are characterized by a comparative absence  
of forest lands; Fiji is rich in rivers and  
streams, and is equally as wealthy in  
beautiful harbours and roadsteads. Each  
island is surrounded by a barrier reef  
of coral, and, with few exceptions, is ac-  
cessible through passages usually found  
opposite to the most considerable valley or  
river. The aboriginal population of Fiji  
belongs to the darker of the two Polynesian  
families, but living on the confines of the  
fairer race, its blood has received consid-  
erable admixture. In 1901 the census showed  
a population of 120,000. The climate is  
remarkably free from zymotic and en-  
demic diseases. Dysentery is the only  
disease to which Europeans are peculiar-  
ly liable. Paludal fevers have never  
been met with. The highest shade  
temperature in Suva in 1900 was  
83 degs. in February and the lowest  
59.9 degs. in June. The total rainfall  
during the year was 89.87 inches. April  
to October are the driest seasons, and  
between December and April is the  
hurricane season. The products of the  
islands are principally copra, sugar,  
cane, tobacco, cotton, yam, maize,  
beche-de-mer, and fruit—particularly  
bananas. The islands were discovered by  
Tasman in 1643, and on October 10,  
1874, the sovereignty of the islands was  
ceded to Great Britain in 1874. Levuka,  
where the hurricanes have been frequent, has  
a population of about 500, and was at first  
selected as the European Capital, but dur-  
ing 1882 the seat of Government was trans-  
ferred to Suva, where there is a population  
of 1075. Just as the typhoon turns up in  
the China Sea and the more or less disas-  
trous hurricanes blow in the South Seas,  
and the hurricanes periodically devastate the  
islands.—Ed., C.M.]

## TELEGRAMS.

[REUTERS'S SERVICE.]

## COREA NEUTRAL.

LONDON, January 23.  
The Government of Corea has declared  
neutrality in the event of war between  
Russia and Japan. The British Minister  
approves.

## CABINET COUNCIL.

A protracted Cabinet Council was held  
in London on Saturday.

## TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

Reuters's Agency at Sofia wires news from  
the frontier that the Turks are rapidly  
concentrating numerous troops on the  
Bulgarian frontier.  
The Turkish representative at the last few  
days has refused to visit the prospects of  
Bulgarians going to Turkey.

## THE WAR SCARE.

## ANOTHER TRANSPORT.

THE 'ROSETTA MARU' CHARTERED.  
Japan is still chartering transports, and  
the latest is the *Rosetta Maru* of the Toyo  
Kisen Kaisha. Only this morning the  
*Rosetta Maru* sailed for Moji under orders  
to the Japanese Government, and as a  
result the service to Manila will have to  
be continued with chartered steamers.  
This does not look as if Japan expected  
peace.

## Will Corea Side with Russia?

To-day yielded nothing in the way of  
news from the north. Until Russia's reply  
is received by Japan, action—excepting for  
the work of completing preparations for  
possible war—will be suspended. When  
Russia will reply is a matter of doubt, and  
it is also uncertain whether she will agree  
to Japan's 'irreducible minimum' or not.  
In case she does not, Japan is still getting  
her army ready to the last button, and is  
chartering as many transports as possible to  
ship them to Corea. Although the British  
authorities opened the eyes of the world in  
regard to transportation during the South-  
African war it is probable that the Japanese  
will do a better stroke so far as speed and  
completeness is concerned in landing her  
troops in Corea. She certainly has not so  
far to go, but it will be found that she will  
get there with a celerity hardly credited  
her, when the time comes.Corea's action in expressing her inten-  
tion to remain neutral has given satisfaction  
to Japan and the other powers,  
but it remains to be seen whether Russia  
will be so pleased. For a long time now  
Russia has been endeavouring to win the  
Coreans to her side, and if all reports are  
true she has succeeded to a great extent.  
The Coreans have no love for the Japs,  
and that fact is particularly galled by the  
trouble they have been creating of late  
with Japanese residents. Only a day or so  
ago a Reuters telegram stated that the  
Coreans were up in arms all over the  
country, and that the Japs were their  
opponents. That is significant under the  
circumstances, and seems to indicate that  
the Coreans—unless they remain neutral—  
will side with Russia. If they do Japan  
will have a tougher nut to crack than she  
anticipated.

## The Effect on Amoy.

Our Amoy correspondent writes that  
Amoy, in common with other places, is  
much exercised as to the prospects of war  
between Russia and Japan, and trade is  
undoubtedly suffering considerably owing  
to the uncertainty created by the situation.  
'We now hear,' he adds, 'that the steamers  
of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are being  
taken off the berth for Europe and else-  
where, in consequence of the scarcity of  
cargo offering, and many passengers who  
had elected to travel homewards by this  
line are now thrown out. Our local Japan-  
ese lines to Foochow and Formosa will also  
be more or less affected by the crisis,  
but being smaller steamers may not be con-  
sidered worth notice. It is just possible,  
however, that in the event of war actually  
breaking out, these steamers may be trans-  
ferred to some other flag, and so continue  
to run as before, unless, indeed, they  
should be needed as transports by Japan.  
Most people feel that the present tense  
and strained position of affairs cannot be  
maintained much longer, and, truly, any  
change, whether it be for war or peace, is  
much to be preferred.'HONGKONG ROPE MANUFAC-  
TURING CO., LTD.The following is the report for presen-  
tation to the shareholders at the twentieth  
Ordinary General Meeting to be held at  
the Office of the General Managers, on  
Saturday, 6th Feb., at 11 o'clock a.m.—  
Annexed we have the pleasure to lay be-  
fore shareholders the annual statement of  
accounts made up to the 31st December,  
1903.This net profit, including the balance  
brought forward from last year, amounts to  
\$133,355.13 which it is proposed to appro-  
priate as follows—  
To place to Reserve Fund.....\$ 15,000.00  
To pay a Dividend of 20 per cent 100,000.00  
To carry forward to the credit of  
next year's account.....8,355.13  
Consolidating Dividend.—In accordance  
with the Articles of Association, Messrs A.  
J. Raymond, D. E. Brown and V. H. Lewis  
being, but after themselves for re-election  
Auditors.—The accounts have been audited  
by Messrs T. Arnold and W. H. Potts,  
who are recommended for re-election.  
SHEWAN TOMES & CO.  
General Managers.















